

favor this bill? The reason is simple: The legislation would entrench their privileged status. It would institutionalize the idea that certain big financial firms deserve preferential treatment by Federal regulators. These firms would be insulated from the negative effects of the new consumer protection bureaucracy. However, that bureaucracy would severely diminish credit access for small businesses and middle-class Americans.

What we have before us is a bill that is supported by Wall Street but opposed by the Chamber of Commerce, the Business Roundtable, and many others on Main Street.

For all these reasons that I have discussed and others, despite my strong desire to enact prudent financial reform, I cannot support this legislation. It does not effectively take on the fundamental problems that we all agree needed to be addressed.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the call of the quorum be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOINT MEETING OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT FELIPE CALDERON HINOJOSA OF MEXICO

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 12 noon.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:40 a.m., recessed until 12 noon, and the Senate, preceded by the Vice President, JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr., the Secretary of the Senate, Nancy Erickson, and the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Drew Willison, proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear an address to be delivered by President Felipe Calderon Hinojosa of Mexico.

(For the address delivered by the President of Mexico, see today's proceedings of the House of Representatives.)

Whereupon, at 12 noon, the Senate, having returned to its Chamber, reassembled and was called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. HAGAN).

RESTORING AMERICAN FINANCIAL STABILITY ACT OF 2010—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I just left the address of President Calderon to the joint session of Congress in the House of Representatives. I think President Calderon's speech to Congress and to the American people was important and timely and really touched some issues of controversy which we cannot ignore.

He acknowledged the fact that his country is being torn apart by drug gangs and drug cartels. He acknowledged the obvious: the object of their commerce is to sell drugs in the United States of America. Our insatiable appetite for narcotics is creating a situation where people are engaged in lawlessness and violence and murder and mayhem in his country. We have to acknowledge that as the reality of the relationship between our two countries. It is not enough for us to lament the violence in Mexico without equally being prepared to say we have to do something on our side of the border to deal with drugs moving into the United States and the market for those drugs in our cities and States.

He also raised the important issue about the firearms that are flowing from the United States of America into Mexico, into the hands of these lawless members of these drug cartels. In the last several years, he told us, some 75,000 firearms have been confiscated. They believe 80 percent of them came from the United States, and many of them were military-type weapons, assault weapons and the like. He said—and I am sure it was not welcome to all corners on Capitol Hill—that we have to accept our responsibility when it comes to sensible gun safety and sensible gun laws.

The Supreme Court has said that under the second amendment, individuals are entitled to possess firearms for self-defense and for legitimate and legal purposes. The President of Mexico doesn't question that. I don't either. But the people who are buying and shipping guns into Mexico from the United States are not engaged in the type of protected constitutional activity the Supreme Court has noted. They have gone way beyond that. They are using, unfortunately, an open system in the United States to feed a drug war in a country south of us. So what are the results of this drug war? Thousands of innocent people are being killed. It is true that the gang violence back and forth results in the death of criminals on both sides, but innocent people are being caught in this crossfire in Mexico as well.

I might also add that the lawless nature of the situation in the northern part of the border is forcing more people into migration into the United States. It is not just the economics

that drives people across the border; it is also the fear that they have to continue to live within communities and cities that are rife with violence.

I am glad the President of Mexico came forward to speak to these issues. We addressed them earlier this week in my Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law in the Senate Judiciary Committee. We had testimony from experts in the administration and outside the administration. It is obvious we need to do more to support Mexico, to try to do what we can to end this violence and the root causes of it on both sides of the border.

But there was one other issue the President of Mexico raised which needs to be discussed honestly. Yesterday, the First Lady of the United States visited an elementary school in a suburb of Washington with the First Lady of Mexico. Their purpose was to salute this school because of the physical activities that were available to the students and their commitment to a healthy lifestyle, which has been one of the real causes the First Lady has espoused in her role.

Then she had a little meeting there. You probably saw it on television. There were some small children around who asked questions, and one little girl said to the First Lady—she wanted to know why Obama, the President, was taking everybody away who does not have papers. This first-grader asked that question, sitting in with about a dozen other schoolchildren. And, of course, the First Lady of Mexico was sitting alongside our First Lady.

The First Lady, Michelle Obama, said: That is something we have to work on, right, to make sure people can be here with the right kind of papers.

Then this first-grader, this six- or seven-year-old girl, said: But my mom does not have any papers.

She blurted that out. I would say that was a telling moment for us in the United States to pause and reflect on what we are engaged in and what we are refusing to do in Congress. Had this young girl, this first-grader, made that statement in the State of Arizona today, it is my understanding their new law would have compelled an investigation of her family. What she said could create reasonable suspicion that someone in her family was here illegally. That innocent statement by that first-grader could have launched an investigation and an arrest and deportation. Is that where we are in America today? Is that what we have come to? I hope not.

I hope we accept our responsibility here in Congress. The President of Mexico invited us, challenged us—and he should—to do our job here to deal with comprehensive immigration reform. It is long overdue. We have to deal with our border situation, with the workplace situation, and with the fact that there are millions of people here today undocumented. We have to decide what is a just outcome for their fate.